
In Frankfurt, a Scotsman working for a local courier company has been accused of failing to deliver more than 20,000 letters and parcels. German police say when they raided the man's flat, they found mail stuffed under the mattress and in cupboards. Steve Rosenberg reports:

There's **an old saying** amongst postmen the world over: the mail must **get through**. But a postal worker in Frankfurt appears to have decided that the mail must get hidden.

German police say the man, who'd been working for a leading **courier company**, had failed to deliver post for over a year - choosing instead **to hoard** it at home in his flat. When police **raided** his apartment, they discovered an **Aladdin's cave** of undelivered letters: they found envelopes stuffed under the mattress, parcels packed into cupboards, mail squirreled away **in every nook and every cranny**.

It's thought the postman, who police say was born in Scotland, had failed to deliver more than twenty thousand items. He was caught when a neighbour **spotted** him **disposing of** lots of letters. Asked by police why he'd done it, the courier claimed he'd had **a lot on his plate** - he'd been attending evening classes and hadn't had time to deliver the post.

Steve Rosenberg, BBC News, Berlin

Vocabulary and definitions

an old saying	a well-known and wise statement
get through	be delivered, reach the addressee
courier company	a firm which delivers important messages or packages quickly
to hoard	to gather in large numbers and keep in a safe, often secret, place
raided	suddenly entered and searched
Aladdin's cave	a secret place (usually a place with many interesting and valuable things)
in every nook and every cranny	in every part of his flat
spotted	noticed
disposing of	throwing away
a lot on his plate	many other things to do

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7607013.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/09/080915_postman.shtml